

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PINT, RP

SUBJECT: PRIMITIVO MIJARES

1. FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM JACK ANDERSON COLUMN IN WASHINGTON POST JULY 14: "PHILIPPINE HUSH MONEY BID DOUBLES".
2. "WE RECENTLY REPORTED, WITH DETAILED DOCUMENTATION, THAT PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT FERDINAND MARCOS HAD TRIED TO BRIBE A FORMER AIDE WITH \$50,000 NOT TO TESTIFY BEFORE THE U.S. CONGRESS.
3. "MARCOS HAS NOW OFFERED THE WITNESS, PRIMITIVO MIJARES, \$100,000 IF HE WILL RECANT HIS TESTIMONY, REPUDIATE OUR STORY AND RETIRE TO AUSTRALIA.
4. "AS MARCOS' FORMER PRESS CENSOR, MIJARES HAD A RINGSIDE SEAT TO THE RISE OF THE MARCOS DICTATORSHIP. HE HAS TESTIFIED AT HOUSE HEARINGS ABOUT THE TYRANNY AND CORRUPTION HE HAD SEEN.
5. "IN MANILA, MEANWHILE, MARCOS HAS DENIED THAT HE TRIED

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TO BLOCK MIJARES' TESTIMONY. WE HAPPEN TO HAVE COPIES, HOW-

EVER, OF THE BANK TRANSACTIONS INVOLVED IN THE ORIGINAL

\$50,000 BRIBE.

6. "ON THE DAY MIJARES TESTIFIED, A PHILIPPINE NATIONAL BANK CHECK, NO. 4905, WAS MADE OUT FOR \$50,000 TO MARCOS' MAN IN SAN FRANCISCO, AMBASSADOR TRINIDAD ALCONCEL. THE CHECK WAS ENDORSED BY ALCONCEL AND DEPOSITED IN A JOINT BANK ACCOUNT IN THE NAMES OF MIJARES AND ALCONCEL.

7. "AFTER MIJARES WENT AHEAD WITH HIS TESTIMONY, ALCONCEL ABRUPTLY TRANSFERRED THE \$50,000 THE NEXT DAY TO HIS PERSONAL BANK ACCOUNT.

8. "SINCE IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENSE TO INTERFERE WITH A FEDERAL WITNESS, WE HAVE TURNED OUR INFORMATION OVER TO THE FBI; REP. DONALD M. FRASER (D-MINN.), WHO PRESIDED OVER THE HOUSE HEARINGS, ALSO HAS URGED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO CONDUCT A FULL INQUIRY.

9. "UNAWARE THAT MIJARES WAS COOPERATING WITH THE FBI, ALCONCEL GOT IN TOUCH WITH HIM AGAIN AND DOUBLED THE OFFER. ALCONCEL MADE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT HE WAS SPEAKING FOR MARCOS.

10. "TO ESTABLISH THE CONNECTION, MIJARES, AN EX-NEWSPAPERMAN, CALLED MARCOS' OFFICE AND SPOKE WITH HIS TOP AIDE-DE-CAMP, DR. GUILLERMO DE VEGA. THE AIDE, ACCORDING TO MIJARES, VERIFIED THE \$100,000 OFFER.

11. "TO ESTABLISH OUR OWN VERIFICATION, WE RETAINED SAN FRANCISCO LAWYER SHELDON GREENE TO LISTEN, WITH MIJARES' PERMISSION, TO A SECOND PHONE CONVERSATION WITH MANILA. DE VEGA REAFFIRMED IN ENGLISH AND TAGALOG HIS OFFER TO "HELP" MIJARES AND DIDN'T QUESTION MIJARES' REFERENCES TO THE \$100,000 BRIBE.

12. "MIJARES ASKED, AS BAIT, WHETHER MARCOS WOULD GO AS HIGH AS \$250,000. THIS WOULD HAVE TO BE APPROVED, SAID
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DE VEGA, BY MARCOS PERSONNALLY." INGERSOLL

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